

Appl. No. 09/716,809
Amdt. Dated 07/13/2004
Reply to Office action of May 14, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed May 14, 2004. In the Office Action, claims 17, 20-21 and 23-33 were considered in condition for allowance upon receipt of a terminal disclaimer. Applicant respectfully submits herewith an executed terminal disclaimer to obviate the obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 16-33.

Claim 17 has been placed into independent form to certain limitations from base claim 16. Claim 17 is now in condition for allowance. Claim 16 has been cancelled without prejudice and claims 18-22 now depend from claim 17, and thus, are allowable as well.

Claims 16, 18-19 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimony, et al. (USP 5,898,669) in view of Murthy, et al. (USP 6,545,982). Although Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, further discussion about the grounds for traverse is moot based on placement of claim 17 into independent form, cancellation of claim 16 and dependency of claims 18-22. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the §103(a) rejection.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 07/13/2004

By


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07/13/2004

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